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FLOOR DEBATE

March 27, 2003      LB 72, 72A, 291, 319, 331, 365, 371, 381  
                         381A, 394, 418, 479

an issue that we could address if we would divide the question or address the entire proposal. But what happened was we offered a bracket instantly, instead of having any debate on the proposal, and now we're sitting here trying to fight the bracket instead of trying to talk about the realities of the state and the programs that we have in place and the obligations that we have committed to. So I rise in opposition to the bracket. I think the valid approach, my preference, would be that we would discuss the committee amendments. We don't even have the committee amendments before us. And so the idea is, is let's have the committee amendments come up. If you want to strike Section 7, offer that amendment, and then let's vote up or down on that, let's amend that, whatever that...whatever the body wants to look like. And then at the end of the day, if we haven't resolved anything, you can either offer the bracket; we can not move the bill. But I think by doing nothing we're sticking our head in the sand and accomplishing nothing. A year from now, we might have bigger problems than we have today, and it's no different than any other problem that we face here in Nebraska. We need to address the issues in a timely manner. I think there are provisions in LB 479 that people can agree on. I think there's provisions in LB 479, by way of the committee amendment, that will be beneficial to providing some clarification and providing some direction for those individuals seeking to qualify for this program. Now if you don't care then you can vote to bracket it, but the reality is, is there's more to the bill than what's being discussed. And so, from that standpoint, I strongly urge you, as Senator Wehrbein has, to defeat the bracket. Or maybe the bracket could be pulled and we could actually get to the committee amendments, I think that would be more timely, and we could offer the motion either to strike Section 7 of the committee amendments or do other things that might be beneficial. But I think by bracketing this and doing nothing we do our citizens, we do the state a disservice and especially the ethanol opportunities that we do have in this state, both now and in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Erdman. While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do sign LB 72, LB 72A, LB 291E, LB 319E, LB 331, LB 365, LB 371, LB 381, LB 381A, LB 394E, LB 418,